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arguments to prove the inadequacy of natural selection to account for certain modifications are, according to the author, inconclusive, "since they are either founded on comparatively unimportant and adventitious peculiarities, or on a neglect of some of the most important conditions under which natural selection in its various forms comes into play."

We can only name some of the remaining subjects discussed in the first volume of Mr. Wallace's important work. "The Group of Earth Studies" includes "The Permanence of Oceanic Basins," "Our Molten Globe," and "The Ice Age and Its Work." In the other groups we have valuable chapters on "Monkeys," "The Disguises of Insects," "The Distribution of Plants," particularly in North America, and the "Evolution and the Distribution of Animals." Under the head of Anthropology Mr. Wallace reproduces his Studies on the Polynesians, on the natives of New Guinea, and on the "Affinities and Origin of the Australian and Polynesian Races." All these chapters are well-illustrated. The space at our command will not allow us to enter into details on the subjects discussed by Mr. Wallace in his second volume. They are divided into Educational, Political, Ethical, Sociological, and the Land Problem. Most of the questions considered are treated of from the author's well-known socialistic standpoint. In a chapter on "Speech," which deserves careful consideration, Mr. Wallace associates the origin of spoken language with that of gesture language of which it is said to be a kind of imitation. The only place where he allows his spiritualistic views to reveal themselves is when discussing the question "Why live a Moral Life?" This he considers the Rationalist and the Agnostic has no adequate motive for doing, "except so far as he is influenced by public opinion and by a belief that, generally, it pays best to do so." The only adequate motive for a moral life he finds in the teachings of Spiritualism. This lame conclusion and his general argument on this topic seem to us to betray a sad deficiency of power to realise the real nature and conditions of the subject, which is surprising considering the power of reasoning and appreciation of difficult problems displayed in other portions of Mr. Wallace's work which will deservedly have a large number of readers.

C. S. WAKE.

LEÇONS DE CHIMIE PHYSIQUE PROFESSÉES À L'UNIVERSITÉ DE BERLIN. By *J. H. Van't Hoff*, Membre de l'Académie des Sciences de Berlin, Professeur ordinaire à l'Université et directeur de l'Institut de Physique de Charlottenbourg. Ouvrage traduit de l'allemand par *M. Corvisy*. Troisième partie: Relations entre les propriétés et la composition. Avec un portrait gravé de l'auteur. Paris: Librairie Scientifique A. Hermann. 1900. Pages, ii, 170. Price, 7 francs.

This work on the relations existing between the properties and the constitution of matter is a reproduction of the lectures which Professor Van't Hoff delivered at the University of Berlin in 1898 and 1899. It forms the third and last part of a treatise on physical chemistry, the first two parts of which, treating of chemical dynamics and chemical statics, have already appeared in German, French, and English and have been noticed in *The Monist.* Professor Van't Hoff has followed in his lectures the general method laid down by Lothar Meyer in the last editions of his *Modern Theories of Chemistry*, where the subject is divided into the two grand general divisions of *Statics* and *Dynamics.* Statics treats of bodies considered apart and by themselves, of the constitution of matter, of atoms, molecules, of the structure and of the configuration of molecules. Dynamics is devoted to the actions of bodies upon one another, to chemical transformations, affinity, chemical equilibrium, etc. The third division of the subject, which treats of the relations between the properties of bodies and their composition, has been added by Professor Van't Hoff, who has departed from the classical programme merely in making dynamics precede statics. The reason for this has been that in recent years dynamics has acquired a much vaster and securer foundation by the association of the theory of chemical equilibrium with thermodynamics, and now takes its place as the natural and logical support of the theoretical edifice of chemistry. Logically it would seem that the problem of statics is a much simpler one, being concerned with single bodies in equilibrium, while dynamics is concerned with a complicated aggregate of bodies in reaction; but this consideration loses its apparent validity when it is reflected that single bodies correspond to a final state of equilibrium following upon reaction. The logical advantage of the order which Professor Van't Hoff has chosen is that at the outset there is no need whatever for any hypothesis concerning the nature of matter; the conception of the molecule is alone sufficient. The atomic hypothesis is in this way relegated to the second part of his work, where the complex problems relating to structure first occur.

The volume is divided into two parts treating (1) of the relation between physical properties and composition, and (2) of the relation between chemical properties and composition. An excellent portrait of Professor Van't Hoff forms the frontispiece.

ELEMENTE DER STEREOMETRIE. By *Prof. Dr. Gustav Holzmüller.* Zweiter Teil. Die Berechnung einfach gestalteter Körper. Mit 156 Figuren und zahlreichen Uebungsbeispielen. Leipzig: G. J. Göschensche Verlagshandlung. 1900. Pages, xv, 477. Price, bound, 10.80 marks.

The second volume of Professor Holzmüller's extensive treatise on Solid Geometry fulfils completely the expectations which were entertained of it. The work is the most exhaustive elementary text-book that we have, being elementary in the sense that the higher analysis and the analytical geometry of space are excluded in the treatment, although on the other hand the methods of descriptive and modern synthetic geometry have been widely employed, and the researches of Steiner, Möbius, Gauss, Monge, Chasles, and Poncelet exploited to the full. Besides the Euclidean procedure, the principles of reciprocity or duality, the methods of parallel and central projection, affinity and collineation, inversion, reciprocal polars,